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RCE/2876

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/763,523
Filing Date	February 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	Jiro Nagaoka et al.
Art Unit	2876
Examiner Name	A. A. Nowlin
Attorney Docket Number	01-162

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
 - i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☒ Other Preliminary Amendment

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☒ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of 3 months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

- a. ☒ Deposit Account No. 02-0184
 - i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 06/07/2004 MAHRED1 00000004 09763523
 - ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 770.00 DP
 - iii. ☒ Other any additional fees 06/07/2004 MAHRED1 00000004 09763523
- b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 900.00 02 FC:1450 enclosed 130.00 DP
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Gregory B. D'Pointe	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	28,395
Signature		Date	June 2, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Lori J. Larson	Date	June 2, 2004
Signature			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Jiro Nagaoka et al. Confirmation No.: 8623
Serial No. : 09/763,523
Filed : February 23, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2876
Examiner : A. A. Nowlin

Docket No. : 01-162
Customer No.: 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 7 of this paper.